

April 22, 2022

America's Health Community Calls on the Biden Administration to Limit Fossil Fuel Expansion

Dear President Biden,

Our organizations represent hundreds of thousands of physicians, nurses, health and public health professionals and health workers, scientists, and hospitals and health care systems. In our work to advance and protect public health, we understand the importance of affordable energy. High energy costs can force families to forgo other health essentials including nutritious food and medical care; however, responding to high energy prices with actions that benefit the fossil fuel industry will neither help our families nor protect their health.

We strongly urge you to refrain from responding to today's high energy prices with actions that will harm the health of the American people and the climate on which we depend. Many experts have concluded that investing in the transition to clean, renewable energy can lower energy costs and increase energy independence faster and for the long-term compared to expanding US oil and gas extraction, refining, and exports. Fossil fuel subsidies instead lead to more asthma and other illnesses in already-burdened communities. Greatly accelerating the clean energy transition is economically feasible and will rapidly produce immense health benefits in the form of less cardiovascular disease, lung disease, and adverse impacts on reproductive outcomes and neurologic function. These health benefits save American families money.

We are seeing the harmful impacts of climate change and air pollution on the health of our patients and communities every day. These impacts are getting worse at an accelerating rate, and they impose significant health and health care costs on American families. Unless we heed the rigorously researched warnings of the world's scientists – expressed clearly by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change over the past several weeks – America and the world will face catastrophic health, economic, and social impacts from climate change. Even the White House Office of Management and Budget recently warned that left unchecked, climate change could lead to dramatic economic decline in America – with GDP contracting 10% by the end of this century.

We urge you in the strongest possible terms to stop the expansion of domestic fossil fuel production to protect the health of communities, here and abroad, now and for future generations.

Sincerely,

Health Organizations (*listed below*)

- *African Heritage PA Caucus*
- *Allergy & Asthma Network*
- *All Nations Health Center*
- *American Academy of Pediatrics*
- *American Association for Community Psychiatry*
- *American College of Physicians*
- *Arizona Health Professionals for Climate Action*
- *Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America*
- *Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America – Michigan Chapter*
- *California Nurses for Environmental Health and Justice*
- *Center for Climate Change and Health*
- *Children's Environmental Health Network*
- *Climate 911*
- *Climate Code Blue*
- *Climate for Health/ecoAmerica*
- *Climate Health Now*
- *Climate Leadership & Environmental Action Network (CLEAN), University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine*

- *Climate Psychiatry Alliance*
- *Duke Med for Environmental Justice and Health Equity*
- *Endocrine Society*
- *Environmental Medicine Consultants*
- *George Mason University Center for Climate Change Communication*
- *Georgia Clinicians for Climate Action*
- *Global Climate & Health Alliance*
- *Global Consortium on Climate and Health Education*
- *Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility*
- *Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate*
- *Idaho Clinicians for Climate and Health*
- *Islamic Medical Association of North America*
- *Maine Medical Association*
- *Medical Society Consortium on Climate & Health*
- *MI Air MI Health*
- *Michigan Clinicians for Climate Action*
- *Montana Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate*
- *Mothers & Others For Clean Air*
- *National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners*
- *National Hispanic Medical Association*
- *National League for Nursing*
- *New Hampshire Healthcare Workers for Climate Action*
- *North Carolina Clinicians for Climate Action*
- *Northeast Ohio Black Health Coalition*
- *NY State District II of the American Academy of Pediatrics*
- *Oncologists United for Climate and Health*
- *Physicians for Social Responsibility*
- *Physicians for Social Responsibility - Sacramento*
- *Physicians for Social Responsibility - Arizona*
- *Puerto Rico Clinicians for Climate Action*
- *Rhode Island Medical Society*
- *San Francisco Bay Physicians for Social Responsibility*
- *South Carolina Health Professionals for Climate Action*
- *Therapists for Social Responsibility*
- *UC Davis Health Sustainability Advocates*
- *Unlimited Potential*
- *USC Institute on Inequalities in Global Health*
- *Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment*
- *Vermont Climate and Health Alliance*
- *Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action*
- *White Coats for Planetary Health - The University of Michigan Medical School*
- *Wisconsin Health Professionals for Climate Action*

